

Myrmica schencki, Emery, an ant new to Britain.

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Myrmica schencki, Em.

Myrmica rubra subsp. *scabrinodis* var. *schencki*, Emery, Zool. Jahrb. Syst., 8, 315 (1895)¹. *Myrmica scabrinodis schencki*, Emery, Deutsch. Ent. Zeitschr. 1908, 178². *Myrmica rubra* subsp. *scabrinodis* var. *schencki*, Wheeler, Ants 566 (1910)³. *Myrmica schencki*, Bondroit, Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg. 55, 11 (1911)⁴: 56, 351 (1912)⁵. *Myrmica scabrinodis* subsp. *schencki*, Karawajew, Rev. Russe Ent. 12 583 (1912)⁶. *Myrmica scabrinodis* race *schencki*, Forel, Mitt. Schweiz Ent. Gesell. 12, 29 (1915)⁷.

♂ Lighter or darker brownish-red, head and gaster darker: mandibles, antennae and legs lighter. The colour is lighter and more uniform over the whole body, than in *lobicornis*.

Head: frontal area longitudinally striate, not shining; temples more regularly striate than in *lobicornis*; antennae with scape sharply bent at the base, and furnished above with a strong transverse ridge, which however is both broader and longer than that of *lobicornis*, the scape itself also being longer; club of antennae three-jointed. Thorax more regularly striate; epinotal spines long and straight, longer than in *lobicornis*, with the space between smooth and shining. Petiole and post-petiole not so strongly rugose as in *lobicornis*, the former seen in profile does not form such a strong or abrupt angle, and the latter seen from above is rounder. Long. 4.5mm.-5mm. (4mm.-5mm. teste, Emery).

♀ Head and gaster blackish-brown, scutum of mesonotum with a black patch anteriorly and two others, one on each side, posteriorly, prae-scutellum, post-scutellum, and metanotum black; mandibles, antennae, rest of body and legs reddish yellow. The whole colouring is lighter than in *lobicornis*.

Other characters as in ♀. Wings with pterostigma and veins pale brown, not as yellow as in *lobicornis*. Long. 6mm.

Described from a number of ♂♂ and three ♀♀ from Glamorgan. These ♂♂ agree closely with specimens I possess from Switzerland and Belgium. I have not seen a British ♂, but in some Swiss specimens in my collection the scape of the antennae is abruptly bent at the base, as in *lobicornis*, but a slight, but distinct, ridge occurs above at the bend, which is not the case in *lobicornis*.

Original description of *Myrmica schencki*, Emery [*Zool. Jahrb. Syst.*, 8, 315 (1895)]:—

“Diese Form wurde bis jetzt mit *M. lobicornis* Nyl. verwechselt und vermengt. —Der ♂ is von derselben durch längere Dornen des Metanotums verschieden. Der 1. Knoten des Stielchens ist auch oben meist weniger winklig, oder sogar etwas depress und abgerundet. Die Farbe der amerikanischen Exemplare ist meistens ziemlich dunkel, schmutzig braun-roth, Kopf und Hinterleib schwärzlich. —Was aber diese Form von *lobicornis* besonders unterscheiden lässt, sind die Fühler des ♂. Der Schaft ist dick und kurz, kürzer als bei *sabuleti* und selten länger als $\frac{1}{2}$ der Geißel, bei den meisten, europäischen Exemplaren etwas kürzer, nahe der Basis stumpf geknickt.”

Habitat.

According to Emery *Myrmica schencki* occurs in Central Europe in flat and hilly country, extending eastwards to China and Manchuria². It has also been recorded from the Northern States of America³, Belgium⁴, Russia⁶, Switzerland⁷, and occurs in Wales.

British distribution as at present known:—Glamorgan: Sully (Hallett). A colony of this ant was discovered by Mr. H. M. Hallett, at Sully, in Glamorgan, on May 30th, 1915. He, however, took it to be *lobicornis*, and knowing I had plenty of the latter from various parts, he unfortunately did not send me specimens at once, when I might have got it into my book. On July 25th he visited the colony again and captured several winged females, but no males were present.

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